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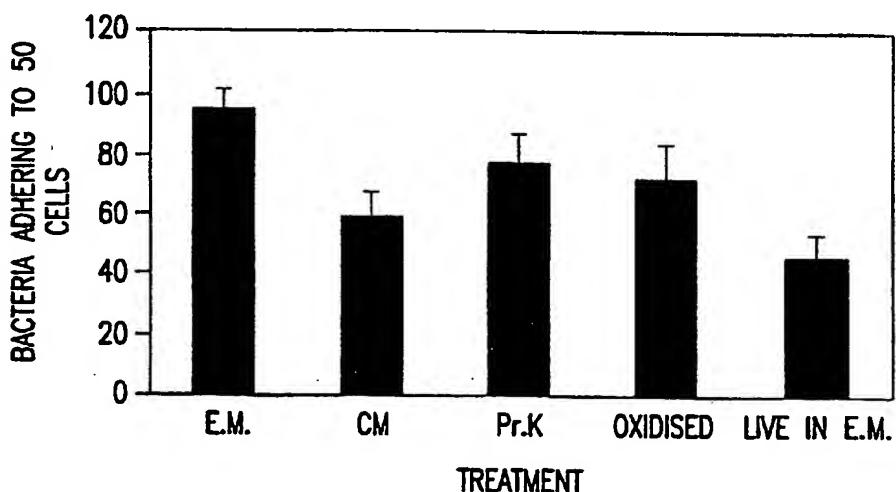
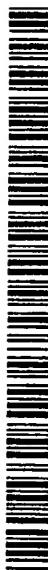
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(54) Title: PRO-GUT MATURATION AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORY EFFECTS OF LACTOBACILLUS AND LACTOBACILLUS SECRETED PROTEINS, CARBOHYDRATES AND LIPIDS



WO 01/10448 A1

(57) Abstract: Strains of *Lactobacilli* having the ability to reduce or block pro-inflammatory cytokines and also to induce anti-inflammatory cytokines are disclosed. These strains may be used to prepare therapeutic agents that reduce inflammation. *Lactobacillus* secreted proteins, carbohydrates and lipids are also disclosed. The *Lactobacillus* secretions, which block translocation of bacterial agents such as Gram (-) bacteria, other infectious agents, toxins, chemicals and injurious substances, may be used in the prevention and treatment of inflammation caused by bacterial translocation and injury and in treating gastrointestinal dysfunctions.

**TITLE OF THE INVENTION****PRO-GUT MATURATION AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORY  
EFFECTS OF LACTOBACILLUS AND LACTOBACILLUS  
SECRETED PROTEINS, CARBOHYDRATES AND LIPIDS****5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/147,792, filed August 9, 1999, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

**Field of the Invention**

10 The present invention relates to *Lactobacillus* secreted proteins, carbohydrates and lipids and other anaerobic bacterial strains known to exert effects similar to *Lactobacillus* strains and their use in the prevention and treatment of inflammation. The *Lactobacillus* secreted proteins, carbohydrates and lipids of the invention can be used to protect intestinal cells against injury caused by disease, infectious agents, toxins, chemicals and other 15 injurious substances. The *Lactobacillus* secreted proteins, carbohydrates and lipids of the invention can be used, in particular, to prevent and treat neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis.

**Background of the Prior Art**

Digestive problems, which comprise the number one health problem in North America, appear to be occurring with more frequency in recent years. One way to maintain 20 digestive health is to maintain proper intestinal flora. Like many groups of living things, bacteria have "friendly" and "unfriendly" populations. Friendly bacteria play a major role in

balancing and counteracting the unfriendly bacteria. When friendly bacteria are not at appropriate levels and when unfriendly bacteria dominate the intestinal flora, health problems can result, including intestinal toxicity and malabsorption of nutrients.

5        *Lactobacilli* are one of the most important types of friendly bacteria found in the digestive tract. The bacteria, which are named because they are able to turn milk sugar into lactic acid, play a key role in producing fermented milk, yogurt and cheese. In the early 1900's, Elie Metchinkoff hypothesized that *Lactobacilli* would provide a hostile environment to unfriendly bacteria in the intestinal environment. This hypothesis was later proven correct.

10        *Lactobacilli* have long been known to have positive effects in the intestine especially in maintaining a healthy gut microflora. These organisms generally act when they are available at the action site (intestine) live to exert their effects. These organisms are also known to secrete antimicrobial substances known as bacteriocins, i.e., substances that kill closely-related strains of other bacteria.

15        Bacterial translocation, i.e., the passage of viable intestinal bacteria across the intestinal epithelial cell layer into the normally sterile extra intestinal tissues, of few bacteria is a normal process and the mucosal immune system (macrophages as first line of defense) along with the consequent immune activation generally prevent detrimental translocation. Secretory immunoglobulins may also prevent the attachment of the same bacteria to the mucosal surface. Bacterial translocation has been suggested to play a role in the etiology of 20 posttraumatic infections and multiple organ failure. This is presumed to be due to breakdown of the intestinal mucosal barrier, permitting pathogenic bacteria to pass into the blood stream.

*Lactobacilli* are known to prevent pathogenic microorganisms from colonizing on

body surfaces (colonization resistance). Administration of antibiotics has a profound effect of the normal flora and can result in colonization with antibiotic-resistant organisms.

Antibiotic-mediated disruption on the normal flora can thus lead to infection and its sequelae.

Commercial preparations of *Lactobacilli* have been used to restore normal intestinal flora

5 after imbalance created by antibiotic therapy.

Despite significant advances in recent neonatal practice, neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality in premature infants.

Survivors of NEC can also have considerable long-term morbidity resulting from the disease, including short-gut syndrome, failure to thrive, intestinal stricture and the need for repeated 10 surgery. Although 11% of premature infants born weighing less than 1500 g develop NEC, the cause of the disease remains unclear and no specific treatments are available. A reasonable hypothesis suggests that a combination of factors including prematurity, intestinal ischemia and bacterial colonization lead to stimulation of an inflammatory cascade and a resulting final common pathway of NEC.

15 Bacterial colonization of the neonatal gastrointestinal tract begins when the infant encounters maternal cervical and vaginal bacteria during delivery. Brooke et al., Aerobic and anaerobic bacterial flora of the maternal cervix and newborn gastric fluid and conjunctiva: A prospective study, *Pediatrics*, 63:451-455 (1979). By 10 days of age, the majority of healthy full-term newborns are fully colonized with a variety of bacterial species. Long et al.,

20 Development of anaerobic fecal flora in healthy newborn infants, *J. Pediatr.*, 91:298-301 (1977). The gut of a premature infant, in contrast, does not provide for proper colonization of the normally heterogeneous bacterial flora and rather demonstrates delayed colonization with only a limited number of bacterial species. Gupta et al., Endemic necrotizing enterocolitis:

lack of association with a specific infectious agent, *Pediatr. Infect. Dis.*, 13:725-734 (1994).

It has been shown that the stool of preterm infants, with and without NEC, is colonized on the average by fewer than 2.5 species of aerobic bacteria, compared to > 10 species in full terms.

Gupta et al. (1994). It is believed that limited friendly bacterial colonization at least in part

5 permits pathogenic bacterial overgrowth that could in turn initiate the cascade of events that lead to NEC.

Human milk populates the intestine with *Bifidobacteria* and *Lactobacilli*, generating a very different gut flora than that seen after formula feeding. Keyworth et al., Development of cutaneous microflora in premature neonates, *Arch. Dis. Child.*, 67:792 (1992). A number of 10 investigators have found decreased numbers of *Lactobacilli* in preterm infants; the reduction being correlated with antibiotic therapy and time spent in the incubator. Hall et al., Factors influencing the presence of fecal lactobacilli in early infancy, *Arch. Dis. Child.*, 65:185-188 (1990).

A variety of *in vitro* studies indicate that endogenous intestinal bacteria can inhibit 15 pathogenic bacteria. For example, Sullivan et al., Inhibitions of growth of *C. botulinum* by intestinal microflora isolated from healthy infants, *Microbial. Ecology in Health and Disease*, 1:179-192 (1988), showed that gut isolates of *Bifidobacteria*, *Lactobacilli*, *Propriionibacteria* and *Enterococci* inhibit *C. botulinum* *in vitro*. Numerous *in vivo* studies also lend support to the ability of selected *Lactobacilli* to modify the intestinal microflora. Conway, *Lactobacilli: 20 Fact and fiction*, Ch. 16 in *The regulatory and protective role of the normal flora*, Grun, Midvedt and Norin, eds., Stockton Press, pp. 263-281 (1988).

Studies indicate that it is possible to successfully modify the gut flora in preterm infants by orally administering *Bifidobacteria* and *Lactobacilli* during and after antibiotic therapy.

Copending U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 08/818,995, the entire contents of which 5 are incorporated herein by reference, discloses that two strains of *Lactobacillus*, i.e., *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and *Lactobacillus plantarum*, reduced tissue injury and inflammatory cell infiltration, suggesting that they are useful in prevention and/or treatment of NEC.

Rubaletti et al., Probiotics Feeding Prevents Necrotizing Enterocolitis in Preterm 10 Infants: A Prospective Double-Blind Study, Pediatric Academic Societies and American Academy of Pediatrics Joint Meeting (May 2000), discloses that *Lactobacillus GG* supplementation reduces the occurrence of NEC and urinary tract infection in preterm infants.

U.S. Patent No. 5,413,785 discloses a method for reducing the quantity of endotoxin 15 in blood plasma that includes administering *Lactobacillus* and a biocompatible carrier into the gastrointestinal tract.

Thus, the clinical use of *Lactobacillus* to enhance intestinal defense against potential 20 luminal pathogens has been tested *in vivo*; however, an understanding of the mechanisms responsible for the observed protection is lacking. There thus exists a need to understand the underlying mechanisms responsible for *Lactobacilli*'s beneficial effects in preventing and treating infection and inflammation.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Elevated levels of proinflammatory cytokines have been demonstrated in blood and tissue samples from babies with NEC. It has previously been shown that adherent *E. coli* can cause NEC-like injury in a rabbit ileal loop model and that Gram (+) bacteria can block such 5 injury.

The present inventor has surprisingly discovered that certain strains of *Lactobacilli* have the ability to reduce or block pro-inflammatory cytokines and that these strains also induce anti-inflammatory cytokines. Such effects have important ramifications in the host; permitting the use of *Lactobacilli* to prepare vaccines against inflammatory disease, as well 10 as to prepare therapeutic agents to reduce inflammation if the disease has already been established.

The present invention is also directed to unique proteins, carbohydrates and lipids secreted by *Lactobacilli*. Although these secretions are capable of blocking bacterial adherence, they exhibit very little or no anti-microbial activity.

15 The present inventor has also surprisingly discovered that *Lactobacilli* are able to stimulate gut maturation.

The *Lactobacillus* strains, proteins, carbohydrates and lipids of the present invention may be used to treat adult and pediatric patients in intensive care units under total parenteral nutrition (intravenous feed) to avoid mucosal dysfunction and further bacterial translocation.

20 The *Lactobacillus* strains, proteins, carbohydrates and lipids of the present invention may also be used to treat patients undergoing chemotherapy, irradiation and bone marrow transplantation.

The *Lactobacillus* strains and secretions of the invention may be used to prevent and treat food allergy and intolerance, where injury caused by an antecedent bacterial infection allows the passage of food antigens through the gut mucosa and further triggers the inflammatory process.

5 The *Lactobacillus* strains and secretions of the invention may also be used to prevent and treat other GI disorders including but not limited to Celiac disease, where initial damage to the gut mucosa allows the passage of the triggering antigen to gain access to deeper layers of the intestine, which in turn, in concert with other immunologic, infective, or genetic factors can cause the clinical disease.

10 The *Lactobacillus* strains, proteins, carbohydrates and lipids of the present invention may also be used to prevent or treat other inflammatory diseases of the GI tract that may have a bacterial etiologic component.

15 The *Lactobacillus* strains, proteins, carbohydrates and lipids of the present invention may further be used in to treat fullterms, children, and adults, in GI dysfunctions of infective and/or inflammatory origin where bacterial infection may act as a trigger or aid in disease progression.

A preferred method of treating neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis comprises providing the *Lactobacillus* strains, proteins, carbohydrates and lipids of the invention for reducing inflammation caused by bacterial adherence, invasion and injury.

20 A preferred method of treating gastro-intestinal dysfunctions includes providing the *Lactobacillus* strains, proteins, carbohydrates and lipids of the invention for improving physiological functions.

These and further and other objects and features of the invention are apparent in the disclosure, which includes the above and ongoing written specification, with the claims and the drawings.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

5       **Figure 1:** Lactobacillus secreted factors from overnight growth in DMEM were separated by PAGE (15%) and stained with Coomassie blue. M: molecular weight markers in kilo Dalton; Lane 1: DMEM (experimental medium) only; Lane 2: whole cell lysates of *L. plantarum*; Lane 3: secreted factors of *L. plantarum*; Lane 4: whole cell lysates of *L. salivarius spp salivarius*; Lane 5: secreted factors of *L. salivarius spp salivarius*. A protein 10 with approximate molecular weight of 20 KD is identified in *L. plantarum* secretions (arrow). Two proteins with approximate molecular weights of 48 KD and 30 KD are identified in the secretions of *L. salivarius spp salivarius* (arrows).

15       **Figure 2:** Adherence assay using *E. coli* and *L. plantarum*-secreted factors. E.M.: experimental medium (DMEM only); CM: conditioned medium (from overnight culture of *L. plantarum*); Pr.K: conditioned medium treated with proteinase-K before the adherence assay. Oxidised: conditioned medium oxidized before the adherence assay; Live in EM: live bacteria (*L. plantarum*) with *E. coli*. Note the reduction in activity (blocking *E. coli*) after destroying the proteins and carbohydrates. These results suggest that the 20 KD protein and additional factor(s), carbohydrate in nature mediate the effects of *L. plantarum*.

20       **Figure 3:** Adherence assay using *E. coli* and *L. salivarius spp salivarius* -secreted factors. E.M.: experimental medium (DMEM only); CM: conditioned medium (from overnight culture of *L. salivarius*); Pr.K: conditioned medium treated with proteinase-K before the adherence assay. Amylase: conditioned medium treated with amylase to destroy

the carbohydrates; Am/PrK: conditioned medium treated with amylase plus proteinase-K.

Note a non-significant reduction in activity (blocking *E. coli*) after destroying the proteins and carbohydrates. Contrary to the results in Figure 2, these data suggest that the *E. coli* blocking effects of *L. salivarius* are mediated by lipids.

5                   **Figure 4:** Induction of cytokine mRNA in rabbit ileal loops infected with *E. coli* and a combination of *E. coli* and *L. plantarum*. There was a significant reduction of proinflammatory cytokine IL-1 after co-infection with *L. plantarum*. Anti-inflammatory cytokine IL-10 was induced only after co-infection with *L. plantarum* (*E. coli* alone did not induce IL-10). Also seen was an increased induction of IL-1RA (receptor antagonist) after 10 co-infection with *L. plantarum*.

**Figure 5.** Expression of small intestinal enzymes by Caco-2 cells. There was a significant increase in the expression of maltase, sucrase, and glucoamylase after the cells were treated with *L. plantarum*.

15                   **Figure 6.** Expression of small intestinal enzymes by Caco-2 cells. Note the increase in lactase and palatinase after treatment with *L. plantarum*.

**Figure 7.** TEER (trans epithelial electrical resistance) measurement after treatment with *L. plantarum*. There was a significant increase in TEER after 1 and 2 hours treatment with *L. plantarum*.

20                   **Figure 8.** Long term TEER (trans epithelial electrical resistance) measurement after treatment with *L. plantarum*. The increase in TEER was maintained over the 6 hr period after treatment with *L. plantarum*.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention demonstrates that specific strains of *Lactobacilli* have the ability to reduce or block pro-inflammatory cytokines and induce anti-inflammatory cytokines. These effects have important ramifications in the host; and may be used as a 5 vaccine against inflammatory diseases, as well as a therapeutic agent to reduce inflammation when the disease has already been established. The invention is also directed to unique proteins, carbohydrates and lipids secreted by these organisms. The proteins, carbohydrates and lipids, which are capable of blocking bacterial adherence and translocation/invasion, have very little or no antimicrobial activity.

10 The following Examples are provided for illustrative purposes only and are in no way intended to limit the scope of the present invention.

**Examples**

Two *Lactobacillus* strains *L. plantarum* and *L. salivarius* spp *salivarius* (assigned ATCC 202195 and ATCC 202196, respectively, by the American Type Culture Collection, 15 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, VA 20110-2209 USA) were used in the following experiments:

20 **Caco-2 cell Adherence Assay.** A Caco-2 cell adherence assay was performed using standard techniques, *E. coli* was used as the adherent candidate Gram (-) organism according to Panigrahi et al., Occurrence of necrotizing entrocolitis may be dependent on patterns of bacterial adherence and intestinal colonization: Studies in Caco-2 tissue culture and weanling rabbit models, *Pediatr. Res.*, 36:115-121 (1994). Briefly, mono- and co-infections of Caco-2 cells were performed with *Lactobacillus* strains *L. plantarum* and *L. salivarius* spp *salivarius* ( $10^9$  organisms/ml) and *E. coli* ( $10^8$  organisms/ml), followed by washing, fixing with ethyl

alcohol and incubation with hyperimmune rabbit serum against *E. coli*. After further washings, monolayers were again incubated with FITC-anti-rabbit IgG (Fab specific). Figure 1A shows the effect of concentrated media of *Lactobacillus* on adherence of 6-1 to Caco-2 cells. The results demonstrate that the number of *E. coli* adhering to Caco-2 cells was 5 drastically reduced after co-infection with two *Lactobacillus* strains, i.e., *L. plantarum* and *L. salivarius* spp *salivarius*.

**Caco-2 Cell Transwell System.** A Caco-2 cell transwell system was used in accordance with Panigraphi et al., Development of an in vitro model for study of non-O1 Vibrio cholerae virulence using Caco-2 cells, Infect. Immun., 58:3415-3424 (1990) and 10 Panigraphi et al. (1994) to grow cells on a membrane allowing the measurement of bacteria that translocate. Briefly, Caco-2 cells were grown on polycarbonate filters in transwell clusters and TEER (trans-epithelial electrical resistance) was measured before and after *Lactobacillus* treatment.

***Lactobacillus* Secretions.** *Lactobacillus* was grown in DMEM overnight from fresh 15 plate cultures. The medium was centrifuged and clarified by passing through a 0.2 nm filter. Adherence assays were performed as previously described. Figure 1 shows the proteins that have been secreted from both strains.

Figure 2 shows the effect of conditioned media of *L. plantarum* on adherence of *E. coli* to Caco-2 cells. The results show a significant reduction in *E. coli* adherence when 20 *Lactobacillus* secretions were used. Note the reduction in activity (blocking *E. coli*) after destroying the proteins and carbohydrates. These results suggest that the 20 KD protein and additional factor(s), carbohydrate in nature mediate the effects of *L. plantarum*.

Figure 3 shows the effect of conditioned media of *L. salivarius* spp *salivarius* on

adherence of *E. coli* to Caco-2 cells. Note a non-significant reduction in activity (blocking *E. coli*) after destroying the proteins and carbohydrates. Contrary to the results in Figure 2, these data suggest that the *E. coli* blocking effects of *L. salivarius* are mediated by lipids.

5       **Anti-inflammatory Effects of *Lactobacillus*.** The anti-inflammatory effects of *Lactobacillus* were determined in the rabbit ileal loop experiments by RT-PCR. The expression of pro-inflammatory cytokine IL-1 was significantly reduced after co-infection with *L. plantarum*. Anti-inflammatory cytokine IL-10 was induced only after co-infection with *L. plantarum* (*E. coli* alone did not induce IL-10). Also seen was an increased induction of IL-1RA (receptor antagonist) after co-infection with *L. plantarum*. The levels of these 10 mRNAs were increased after *E. coli* infection.

There was an increase in the expression of IL-10 and IL-1RA (anti-inflammatory cytokines) and a decrease in the expression of pro-inflammatory cytokine IL-1 in these experiments. These results suggest that *Lactobacilli* may exert their beneficial effect by blocking bad cytokines and concurrently stimulating the expression of good cytokines.

15       **Gut Maturation After *Lactobacillus* Treatment.** Gut maturation after *Lactobacillus* treatment studies were performed in cultured Caco-2 cells grown in petri dishes or in transwell cultures. The trans-epithelial electrical resistance was significantly increased after treatment of the monolayers with *L. plantarum*. Expression of brush border specific enzymes (that are highly related to maturation) were assayed in control and *Lactobacillus*-treated cells. 20 There was a significant increase in the expression of maltase, sucrase, glucoamylase and palatinase, and to a lesser extent lactase.

**Weanling Rabbit Ileal Loop Experiment:** Following previously described protocols, (Panigrahi P, Gupta S, Gewolb IH, and Morris JG Jr. 1994. Occurrence of

Necrotizing Enterocolitis may be dependent on patterns of bacterial adherence and intestinal colonization: Studies in Caco-2 tissue culture and weanling rabbit models. Ped. Res. 36 (1):115-121), weanling rabbit ileal loops were infected with either *E. coli* alone or in combination with *L. plantarum*. After 12-16 hr, animals were euthanized and segments of 5 the loops were frozen in liquid nitrogen. RNA was extracted from pulverized intestinal segments, followed by cDNA synthesis and RT-PCR for cytokines.

Various other modifications will be apparent to and can be readily made by those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of this invention. Accordingly, it is not intended that the scope of the claims appended hereto be limited to the description as 10 set forth herein, but rather that the claims be broadly construed.

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. *Lactobacillus* secretions, said *Lactobacillus* secretions being proteinaceous, said *Lactobacillus* secretions block epithelial cell bacterial adherence and translocation.
2. *Lactobacillus* secretions, said *Lactobacillus* secretions being carbohydrates, 5 said *Lactobacillus* secretions block epithelial cell bacterial adherence and translocation.
3. *Lactobacillus* strains and secretions, said *Lactobacillus* strains and secretions have anti-inflammatory activity by blocking pro-inflammatory cytokines and by inducing anti-inflammatory cytokines.
4. *Lactobacillus* strains and secretions, said *Lactobacillus* strains and secretions 10 induce gut maturation.
5. A method of preventing necrotizing tissue injury in the gastrointestinal tract comprising orally administering *Lactobacillus* secretions selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus* proteinaceous secretions and *Lactobacillus* carbohydrate secretions.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising protecting tissues along the 15 gastrointestinal tract by blocking bacterial translocation with said *Lactobacillus* secretions.
7. The method of claim 5, further comprising protecting tissues along the gastrointestinal tract with the administered *Lactobacillus* secretions thereby blocking translocation of bacterial agents, other infectious agents, toxins, chemicals, and injurious substances.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein the blocking bacterial translocation 20 comprises blocking Gram (-) bacteria.
9. A method of treating neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis wherein inflammation

caused by bacterial translocation and injury is reduced comprising administering *Lactobacillus* secretions selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus* proteinaceous secretions and *Lactobacillus* carbohydrate secretions.

10. A method of preventing gastrointestinal dysfunction characterized by infection or inflammation comprising administering *Lactobacillus* secretions selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus* proteinaceous secretions and *Lactobacillus* carbohydrate secretions.
11. A vaccine prepared using the *Lactobacillus* secretions of Claim 1.

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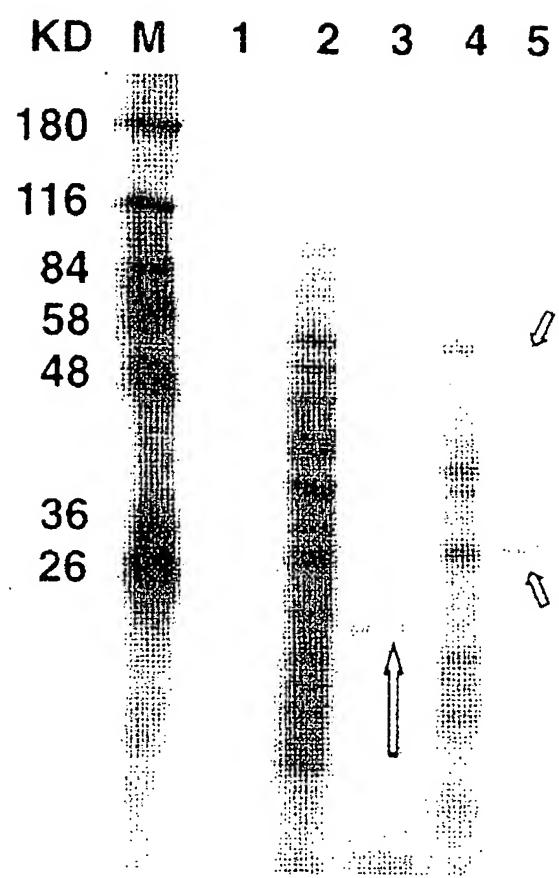


FIG. 1

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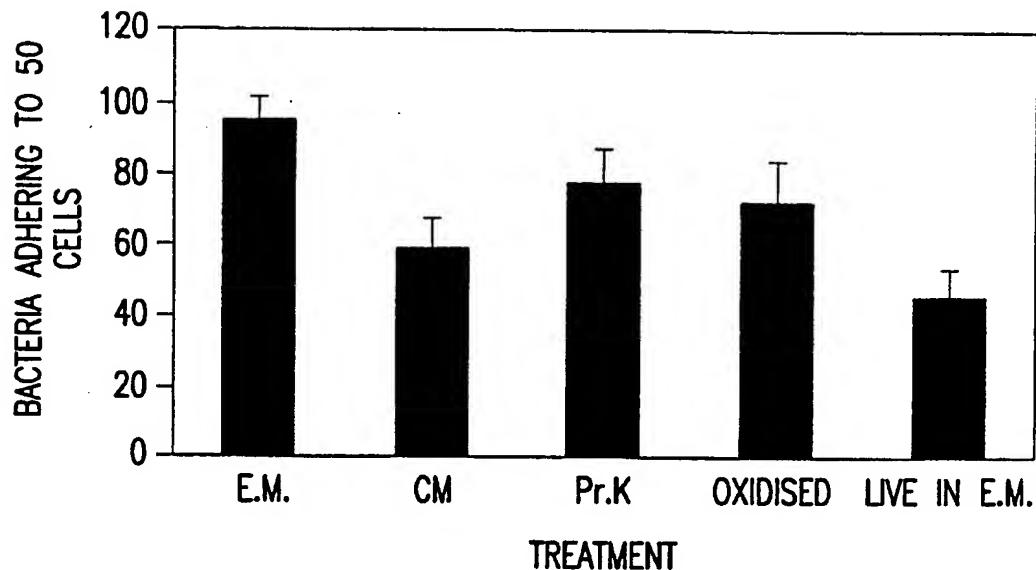


FIG.2

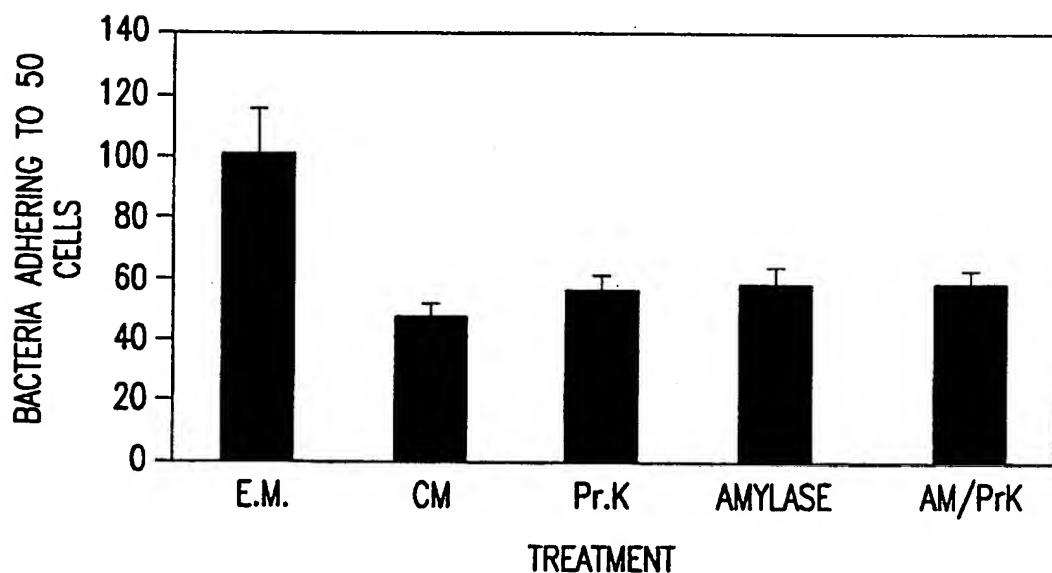


FIG.3

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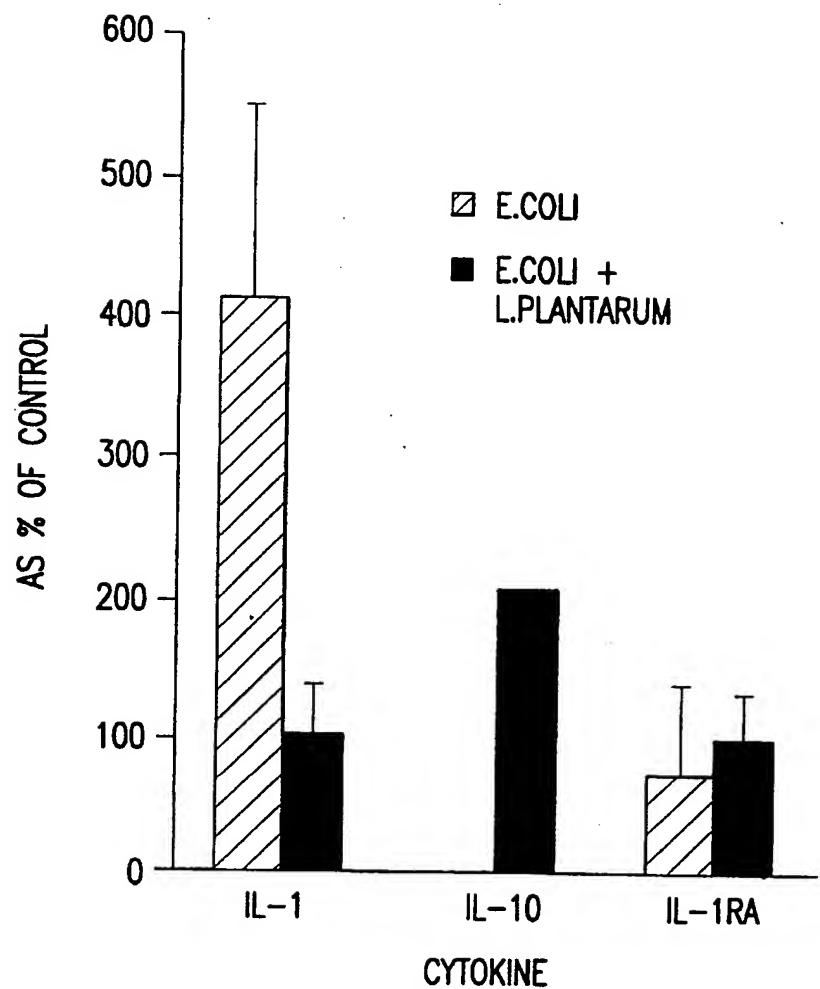


FIG.4

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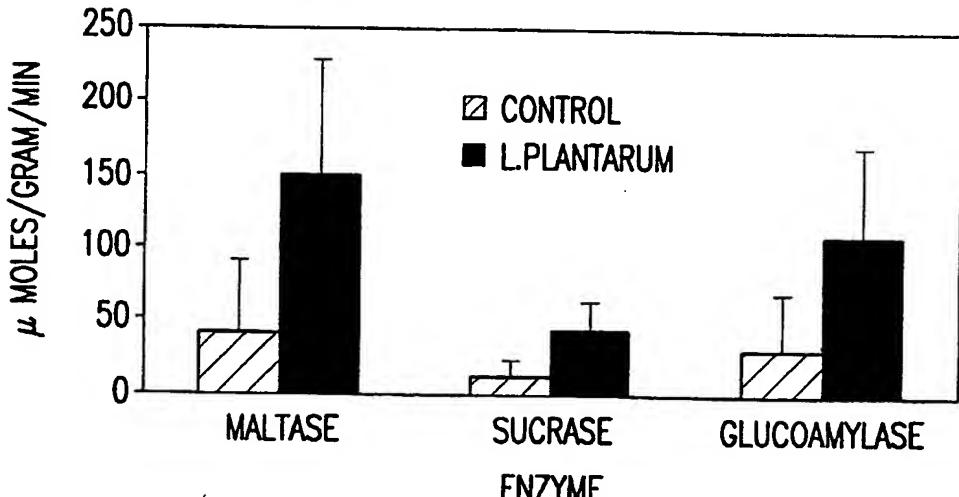


FIG.5

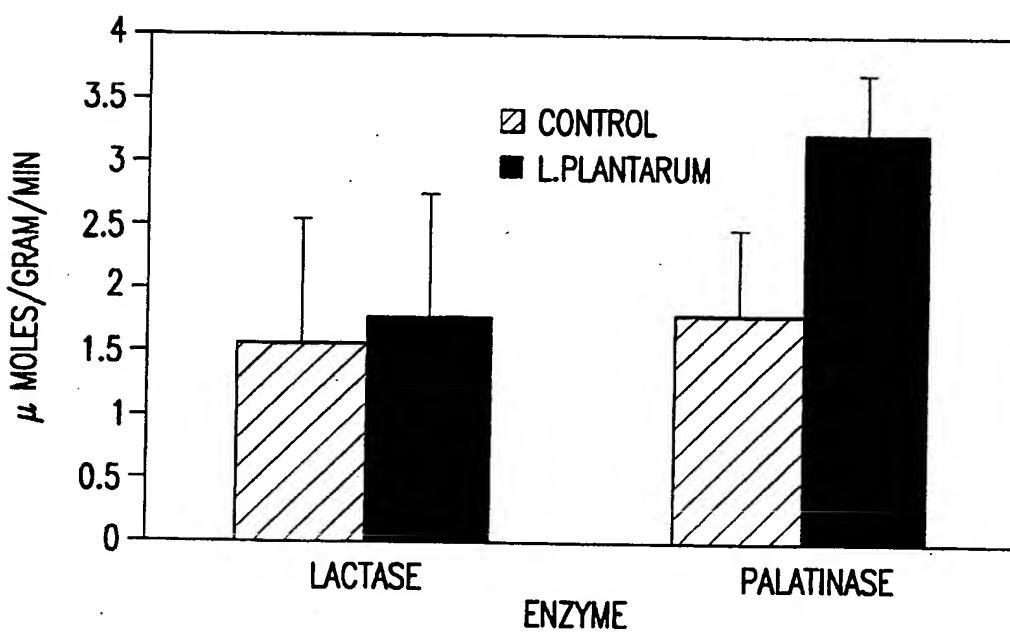


FIG.6

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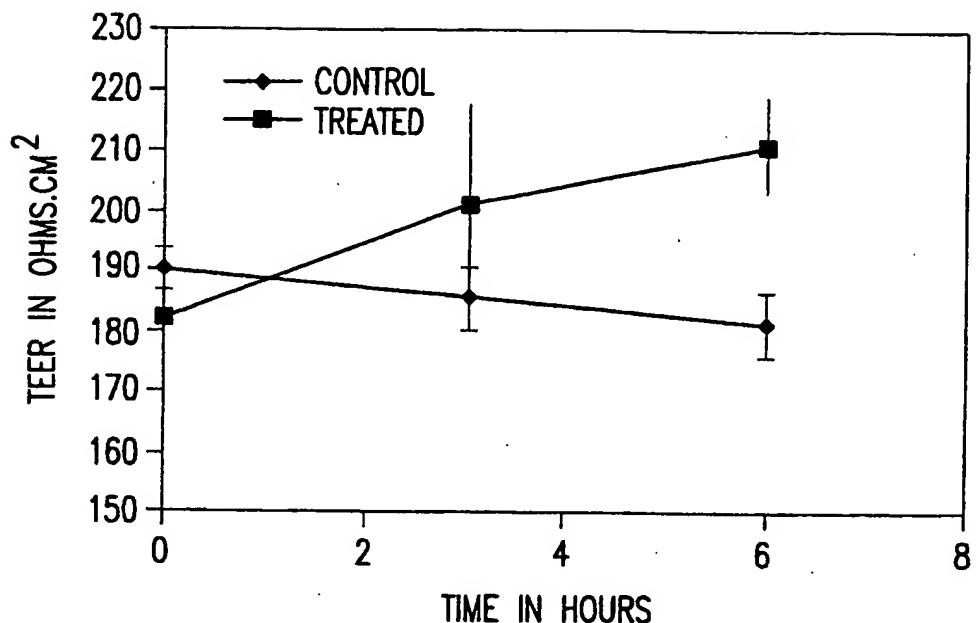


FIG.7

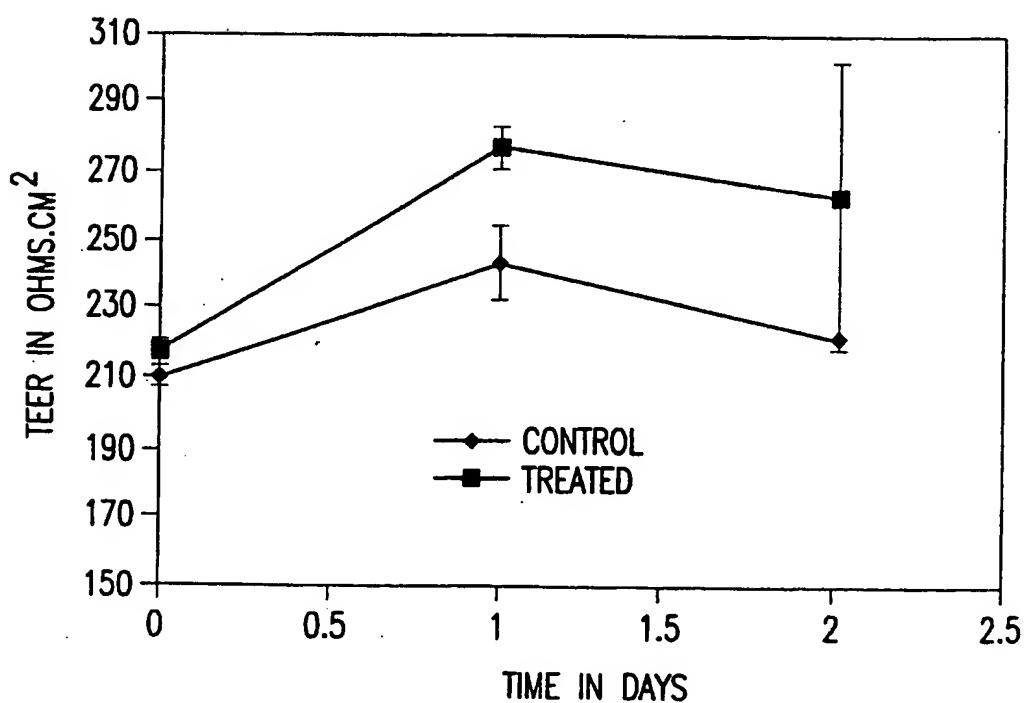


FIG.8

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US00/21668

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61K 31/70, 38/00, 39/02, 45/00; A01N 63/00  
US CL : 424/234.1, 282.1, 93.45; 514/2, 23

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 424/234.1, 282.1, 93.45; 514/2, 23

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched.

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

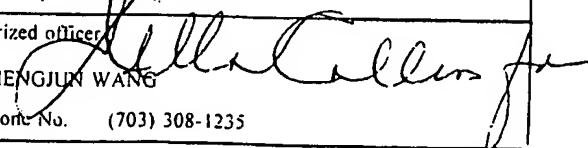
Please See Extra Sheet.

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,645,830 A (REID et al) 08 JULY 1997, the entire document.	1-11
Y	US 5,439,678 A (DORBROGOSZ et al), 08 AUGUST 1995, the entire document.	1-11
Y	US 5,413,785A (NANJI) 09 MAY 1995, the entire document	1-11
Y	DATABASE DERWENT, DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1990-275101, CONWAY et al "Products for inhibiting adhesion, growth and /or survival of pathogens comprises Lactobacillus metabolites including high mol. wt. protein compounds." abstract, WO 9009398, 1990.	1, 3-11

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

"A"	Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search 20 OCTOBER 2000	Date of mailing of the international search-report 14 NOV 2000
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer SHENGJUN WANG Telephone No. (703) 308-1235
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/21668

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	DATABASE DERWENT, DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1996-235980, HONSHA, "Cytokine generation accelerator used in blood - comprises polysaccharide-glycan complex." abstract, JP 08092112, 1996.	2-10
Y	DATABASE CAPLUS, CAS (Columbus OH, USA), Access No. 1995:970093, CLAASSEN et al. "New and safe "oral" live vaccines based on <i>Lactobacillus</i> ," abstract, Adv. Exp. Med. Biol. 1995, 371B, page 1553-1558.	11

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US00/21668

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

MEDLINE, CAS ONLINE, BIOSIS, DERWENT

search terms: lactobacillus, gastrointestinal, antibacterial, antiinflammation, gut, vaccine, protein, carbohydrate, polysaccharide